

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process, comprising:

a thermal treatment of dry sodium percarbonate consisting essentially of coated or uncoated sodium percarbonate; ~~immediately following a drying step subsequent to a production process of sodium percarbonate~~

wherein the thermal treatment is performed for a time of at least 2 minutes at a temperature from 80 to 95°C, ~~without adding a coating agent~~, while maintaining the active oxygen content virtually constant, and ambient air surrounding the sodium percarbonate is continuously replaced.

Claim 2 (Original): The process according to Claim 1, wherein the sodium percarbonate is coated.

Claim 3 (Canceled).

Claim 4 (Original): The process according to Claim 1, wherein the temperature is from 85 to 95°C.

Claim 5 (Original): The process according to Claim 1, wherein the time is from 5 to 60 minutes.

Claim 6 (Original): The process according to Claim 1, wherein the time is from 10 to 60 minutes.

Claim 7 (Original): A sodium percarbonate particulate made by the process according to Claim 1.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The process according to Claim 1, wherein the sodium percarbonate is in a fluidized layer,

atmospheric air is heated to a treatment temperature from 80 to 95°C; and the atmospheric air is passed through the fluidized layer.

Claim 9 (Original): The process according to Claim 8, wherein the atmospheric air is heated by flue gases.

Claim 10 (Original): The process according to Claim 8, wherein the thermal treatment is performed in a fluidized bed.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The process ~~[[,]]~~ according to Claim 1,
~~comprising a thermal treatment of~~
wherein uncoated sodium percarbonate is treated immediately following a drying step
subsequent to a production process of sodium percarbonate,
~~wherein the thermal treatment is performed at a temperature from 80 to 95°C without~~
~~adding a coating agent and ambient air surrounding the sodium percarbonate is continuously~~
~~replaced.~~

Claim 12-20 (Cancelled).

Claim 21 (New): The process according to claim 1, wherein coated sodium percarbonate is treated immediately following a drying step subsequent to a coating process of sodium percarbonate.

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT

Applicants file concurrently herewith a certified English translation of the priority document, German Patent Application DE 10065953.5, filed on December 23, 2000.

The Specification of the present application contains text that is based on the priority document, but was revised in order to better conform to U.S. Patent Practice. During the revision process, the term "dry" was inadvertently omitted from the revised text.

Accordingly, the Specification is amended, in order to include the inadvertently omitted term "dry."

This term is supported by the priority document, see page 4, line 5, "trockene," which when literally translated means "dry," and page 9, line 6. The Examiner's attention is directed page 3, line 35, and page 9, line 5, of the certified English translation.

Therefore, it is believed that entry of the amendment does not constitute new matter as Applicants' Specification, page 1, incorporates the contents of priority application by reference.

Claims 1 and 11 are amended. Support for the amendment to claim 1 is found in the now amended Specification, and consequently in the priority document. Support for the amendment to claim 11 is found in the Examples, pages 11-12, and in original claim 5.

Claim 21 is added. Support for new claim 21 is found in original claim 5.

Therefore, it is believed that no new matter will be added upon entry of the amendment.

Upon entry of the amendment, claims 1-2, 4-11, and 21 will be active.